(e) the accumulated contingency reserves on this account, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund have recommended 9.5% interest rate to the EPF subscribers for the year 2003-04, which includes the Golden Jubilee bonus interest rate of 0.5%. This recommendation has been made as per provisions of the Employees Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The additional bonus interest will require approximately Rs. 200 crores, which is available as earlier years' surplus in Interest Suspense Account.

(e) As per Para 51 of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952 interest earned on investment is kept in Interest Suspense Account. While deciding rate of interest for a particular year, Employees Provident Fund Organisation keeps reserve for contingencies and also has some surplus interest with it.These reserves for contingencies and surplus remain in the interest Suspense Account. These Reserves are not separately shown in the EPFO accounts and therefore cannot be accurately quantified.

Rate of Growth of Employment

529. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of growth of employment in the country during the period 1987—1994 and 1994—2002, period-wise separately;

(b) whether it is a fact that the rate of employment growth is dwindling; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHR'I SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation from time to time.

Last such survey was conducted during 1999-2000. As per these surveys, rate of growth of employment on usual status basis during 1983—94 and 1994—2000 was of the order of 2.04% and 0.98% respectively. Major reason for decline in the growth rate of employment was that economy did not grow as expected.

Child Labour in Industries

530. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the industries in which child labour is prevalent;

(b) the steps taken to prevent this practice; and

(c) the action taken against the industries employing child labour during the last three years including the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) While the child labour is present in one form or the other in the country, under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, employment of children below the age of 14 years is prohibited in 13 hazardous occupations and 57 hazardous processes. A copy of the schedule is given in the Statement *(See* below).

Employers employing children in occupations and processes prohibited under the Act are liable to be prosecuted. The Central Government and State/UT Governments have enforcement machineries to enforce child labour related provisions of the various laws.

Government is committed to the goal of eradication of child labour in all its forms. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual and sequential approach has been adopted for .withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour, beginning with children working in hazardous occupations.

(c) During the last three years 2,67,254 inspections were carried out and prosecutions launched in 4071 cases resulting in 1346 convictions.